

TETANUS AND DIPHTHERIA VACCINE (Td)

ABOUT THE DISEASES

Tetanus (lockjaw) and diphtheria are serious diseases. Tetanus is caused by a germ that enters the body through

a cut or wound. Diphtheria spreads when germs pass from an infected person to the nose or throat of others.

Tetanus causes:
serious, painful spasms
of all muscles

It can lead to:
- "locking" of the jaw so
the patient cannot
open his or her mouth
or swallow
- death

Diphtheria causes:
a thick coating in the
nose, throat, or airway

It can lead to:
- breathing problems
- heart failure
- paralysis
- death

What you need to
know before you or
your child gets the
vaccine



ABOUT THE VACCINES

Benefits of the vaccines

Vaccination is the best way to protect against tetanus and diphtheria. Because of vaccination, there are many fewer cases of these diseases. Cases are rare in children because most get DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis), DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, and acellular Pertussis), or DT (Diphtheria and Tetanus) vaccines. There would be many more cases if we stopped vaccinating people.

When should you get Td vaccine?

Td is made for people 7 years of age and older.

People who have not gotten at least 3 doses of any tetanus and diphtheria vaccine (DTP, DTaP, or DT) during their lifetime should do so using Td. After a person gets the third dose, a Td dose is needed every 10 years all through life.

Other vaccines may be given at the same time as Td.

Tell your doctor or nurse if the person getting the vaccine:

- ever had a serious allergic reaction or other problem with Td, or any other tetanus and diphtheria vaccine (DTP, DTaP, or DT)
- now has a moderate or severe illness
- is pregnant

If you are not sure, ask your doctor or nurse.

What are the risks from Td vaccine?

As with any medicine, there are very small risks that serious problems, even death, could occur after getting a vaccine.

The risks from the vaccine are much smaller than the risks from the diseases if people stopped using vaccine.

Almost all people who get Td have no problems from it.



CDC
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